

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 8-10 and 33. The status of the claims is as follows:

1-7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display device comprising:

a first substrate having thereon a pixel electrode and an active element;

a second substrate having thereon an opposed electrode; and

a liquid crystal layer interposed between said first and second substrates

with said pixel and opposed electrodes facing each other,

~~wherein an~~ a first orientation control element locally provided near an edge  
of the pixel electrode on said first substrate and giving an orientation regulating force to  
liquid crystal molecules near an the edge of said pixel electrode on said first substrate is  
locally provided near said edge on said first substrate, the orientation regulating force  
counteracting an orientation regulating force given by the edge of said pixel electrode to  
said liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer, so that said liquid crystal  
molecules including those near said edge are oriented in a substantially the same  
direction, when difference in orientation direction among ~~said the~~ the liquid crystal  
molecules adjacent to each other near said edge is caused by ~~an the~~ the orientation regulating  
force given to the liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer by said edge of said  
pixel electrode ~~to said liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer~~ when voltage is  
being applied between said pixel and opposed electrodes; and

a second orientation control element giving an orientation regulating force that orients the liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer in a predetermined direction different from the directions of the orientation regulating force given by the edge of the pixel electrode to the liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer and the orientation regulating force given by said first orientation control element.

9. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 8, wherein said orientation control element is constituted by a plurality of fine slits formed locally in said pixel electrode in an oblique direction relative to an extending direction of said edge or a plurality of fine protrusions formed locally on said pixel electrode in an oblique direction relative to ~~an~~ the extending direction of said edge, and said fine slits or said fine protrusions locally give to the liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer an orientation regulating force in a direction parallel to said fine slits or said fine protrusions.

10. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 9, wherein at least a part of said fine slits or said fine protrusions are different in shape and/or spaced interval of arrangement from each other;

11. (Original) The device according to claim 8, wherein said orientation control element is a hollow formed in a part other than said pixel electrode.

12. (Original) The device according to claim 8, wherein a dielectric anisotropy of said liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer is negative.

13-32. (Canceled).

33. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal orientation method of liquid crystal molecules of a liquid crystal layer in a liquid crystal display device comprising a first substrate having thereon a pixel electrode and an active element, a second substrate having thereon an opposed electrode, and said liquid crystal layer interposed between said first and second substrates with said electrodes facing each other, said method comprising the step of:

giving an orientation regulating force to said liquid crystal molecules near an edge of said pixel electrode on said first substrate to counteract an orientation regulating force given by the edge of said pixel electrode to said liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer, so that said liquid crystal molecules including those near said edge are oriented in substantially the same direction, when difference in orientation direction among said liquid crystal molecules adjacent to each other near said edge is caused by ~~an~~ said orientation regulating force given to said liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer due to said edge of said pixel electrode when voltage is being applied between said pixel and opposed electrodes; and

giving an orientation regulating force that orients the liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer in a predetermined direction different from the directions of the orientation regulating force given by said edge of said pixel electrode to the liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer and the orientation regulating force given to said liquid crystal molecules near the edge of said pixel electrode.